

REMARKS

Claims 15–19, 25 and 27–33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim is amended 25 by incorporating the features of claims 14 and 20, claims 15, 16 and 29 are amended to depend on claim 25, claims 15-19, 25, 27 and 29-33 are amended to correct minor informalities and claims 28 is amended to depend from claim 27. Support for the amendments can be found in canceled claims 14 and 20. No new matter is added. Applicants request reconsideration and prompt allowance in view of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 14–33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 16, 17 and 25 are amended by removing the alleged indefinite term to clarify the subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action notes that claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112 rejection and include the limitations of the various claims from which it depends.

The Office Action rejects claims 14–24 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 03-285577 (Kobayashi); rejects claims 29–33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Kobayashi; and rejects claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kobayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,196,437 (Mori).

Applicants amend claim 25 by incorporating the features of claims 14 and 20, as recited above. In view of the Office Action noting that claim 25 includes allowable features, the amendment to the features previously recited in claim 14, and the amendments to claim 25 to incorporate the features of claims 14 and 20, claim 25 is in condition of allowance. Additionally, as the remaining pending claims variously depend from claim 25, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 15-19, 25 and 27-33 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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